

SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 21

Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting

Friday, July 10th, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.

Location: North County Regional Fire Authority
Station 46 - 137 N MacLeod Ave, Arlington, WA 98223

SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order: Commissioner Safford called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman Taft, Commissioner Safford, Commissioner Johnson, Chief Schmidt, Chief Nunemaker, Executive Assistant Linklater, NCRFA's Chief Kraski, Chief Hickman, Commissioner Rob Johnson, Commissioner Marilyn Oertle, and 2 District 21 Citizens.

Flag Salute: Led by Commissioner Safford

Agenda:

North County ILA Discussion:

District 21 representatives met with North County Regional Fire Authority leadership, commissioners, and community members to discuss the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), long-term ALS service planning, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the agencies.

Chief Schmidt explained that the District's interest in extending the ILA is intended to demonstrate good faith and reinforce the strong working relationship between the two organizations. District 21 has no interest in standing up its own Medic Unit, and would just like to add to the current ILA, allowing those same medics to work in District 21 when available as paramedics. Discussion included the importance of maintaining open communication, building trust, and continuing regular collaboration through quarterly meetings.

Chief Kraski and Chief Hickman shared concerns regarding paramedic staffing, medic call exposure, and maintaining clinical proficiency. It was noted that the current ILA provides valuable opportunities for District 21 paramedics to maintain high-acuity experience while supporting regional ALS services.

During the discussion, Chief Schmidt stated that while he does not agree with North County Regional Fire Authority's decision to discontinue allowing Captain Paramedics to perform field intubations and instead require them to maintain those skills through operating room training, he respects that as North County's decision to make. He explained that his point was not to criticize the decision itself, but to illustrate that each agency must be allowed to make operational decisions it believes are in the best interest of its firefighters and the communities it serves. Likewise, he expressed that District 21 should be afforded the same respect in making decisions it believes are best for its own citizens and firefighters.

Participants also addressed misconceptions and rumors surrounding the ILA and future ALS licensing. Leadership from both agencies reaffirmed their commitment to transparency, collaboration, and ensuring that District 21's pursuit of an ALS license would not be hindered by North County. It was agreed that continued communication between leadership, labor representatives, commissioners, and staff is essential to maintaining positive relationships and addressing concerns as they arise.

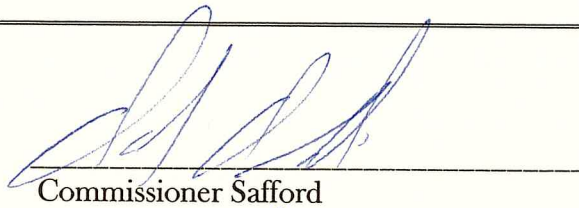


The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continue working together, hold regular collaborative meetings, and strengthen the partnership for the benefit of both agencies and the communities they serve.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Minutes Approved By:


Chairman Taft


Commissioner Safford


Commissioner Johnson


Fire Chief/Board Secretary Schmidt